

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 13, 15-17, 21, and 22 are pending in this application. Claims 7-9, 14, and 18-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 12, 15, 17, and 21 are amended and new Claim 22 is added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 7-9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 17, 20, and 21¹ were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Reno (U.S. Patent No. 5,556,150). However, Claims 7-9, 12, 14, 15, and 19 were indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 13, 16 and 18 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 13, 16 and 18 and the indication that Claims 7-9, 12, 14, 15, and 19 including allowable subject matter.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 7-9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 7-9, 14, and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, making the present rejection moot with respect to these claims. Claim 12 is amended to delete “wherein said medium is a recordable information medium on which data recording is continuously done to form a predetermined non-data portion between neighboring predetermined recording units along a track.” Claims 15, 20, and 21 are amended to recite:

...

one of said neighboring tracks is configured to record information of a combination of first group recording units and a first non-data portion which is located between the first group recording units,

¹This rejection in the outstanding Office Action refers to Claim 22, but the present response assumes that Claim 21 was intended.

an other of said neighboring tracks is configured to record information of a combination of second group recording units and a second non-data portion which is located between the second group recording units,

an angular position of the first non-data portion with respect the center of rotation is different from an angular position of the second non-data portion with respect to the center of rotation;

...

Accordingly, Claims 12, 15, 20, and 21 are believed to be in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With regard to the rejections of Claims 17, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Reno, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 17 recites in part, “a device configured to reproduce, with an ECC correction using said ECC blocks, the information of the recording units of at least one of the first and second groups from the medium rotated by said motor.”

Reno describes an optical disc having regions for recording information 512a and 512b with a non-recorded region 592 therebetween.² However, it is respectfully submitted that Reno does not teach that either of regions 512a or 512b include an error correcting code (ECC) block. Thus, Reno does not teach “a device configured to reproduce, with an ECC correction using said ECC blocks, the information of the recording units of at least one of the first and second groups from the medium rotated by said motor” as recited in amended Claim 17. As Reno does not teach each and every element of Claim 17, Claim 17 is not anticipated by Reno and is patentable thereover.

As amended Claims 20, 21, and new Claim 22 recite similar elements to Claim 17, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 17 and 20-22 also patentably define over Reno.

²See Reno, column 8, lines 20-26 and Figures 5a and 5b.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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